

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 12561 221420Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CPR-03 PA-01 SS-15

SSC-01 SSO-00 /031 W

-----074206 221427Z /46

O 221349Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9920

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, KEN

SUBJECT: US REPRESENTATION AT KENYATTA FUNERAL

1. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT YET HAVE DETAILS ON KENYATTA FUNERAL PLANS, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE REPRESENTED AT A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND KENYA DURING KENYATTA'S ENCUMBANCY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THESE RELATIONS HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE CLOSEST COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS. KENYA, AS MUCH AS ANY COUNTRY IN AFRICA, HAS SHARED AMERICAN IDEALS AND HAS PURSUED FOREIGN POLICIES CONSONANT WITH OURS. ESPECIALLY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS THIS COOPERATION DEVELOPED INCREASED SCOPE, NOT ONLY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, BUT ALSO IN SECURITY MATTERS.

2. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS THAT KENYATTA HAS BEEN A FIGURE OF ENORMOUS STATURE TO HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN. BEGINNING HIS POLITICAL CAREER SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR I, HE SPENT A LIFETIME WORKING FOR INDEPENDENCE AND FINALLY GUIDING THE COUNTRY THROUGH ITS FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE. THUS, TO ALL KENYANS, KENYATTA HAS BECOME THE SYMBOL OF THE NATION ITSELF.

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3. FOR THIS REASON AS WELL, THE LEVEL OF OUR REPRESENTATION SHOULD GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE HIGH ESTEEM WE AS A NATION HELD FOR KENYATTA AND THE RESPECT WE HAVE FOR ALL THE KENYAN PEOPLE.

4. I THINK, THEREFORE, THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SHOULD BE HEADED BY SOMEONE OF THE STATURE OF THE VICE

PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY.

5. I WILL BE SENDING SHORTLY MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE TO  
ACTING PRESIDENT MOI AND TO THE KENYATTA FAMILY ON BEHALF OF  
THE EMBASSY. I TRUST THAT THE CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM THE  
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITHOUT DELAY.  
LE MELLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STATE FUNERALS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014